



August

2019

# CHIN STRAP

*Published by the Maryland Region for all members of the 29th Division Association, Inc.*

- ★ Alsace - 25 July 1918 - WWI
- ★ Meuse Argonne - 8 Oct - 29 Oct 1918 - WWI
- ‡ Normandy - 6 Jun 1944 - WWII
- ★ Normandy - 6 Jun - 24 Jul 1944 - WWII
- ★ Northern France - 25 Jul - 14 Sep 1944 - WWII
- ★ Rhineland - 15 Sep 1944 - 21 Mar 1945 - WWII
- ★ Central Europe - 22 Mar - 8 May 1945 - WWII

- Global War on Terrorism
- Iraqi Governance - 2004 - 2005 - Iraqi War
- National Resolution - 2005 - 2007 - Iraqi War
- Iraqi Surge - 2007 - 2008 - Iraqi War
- Consolidation I - 2001 - 2006 - Afghanistan War
- Consolidation II - 2006 - Present - Afghanistan War

## Post Reports

### **Limestone Post 1-72, Baltimore, MD**

*Commander: Lee Hofmann*

Please mail dues to: **Bill DeHaven**

139 Chestnut Hill Lane, Reisterstown, MD 21136-3206

Comrades.

Greetings! Is the weather hot enough for you now? Remember that this is what you were looking forward to, back in January. Anyhow just grab a "cold one", and keep on "keep'in on"!

Our July meeting saw the return of our good friend, and comrade, George Linthicum, looking his "dapper" self, with that big welcoming smile on his face! Our PNC Bob Wisch, also in attendance, showed signs of improving health. Bob informed us that he is on the mend, but will require some "fine tuning" on his electronic equipment (pace maker)

The annual picnic is fast approaching! Veteran Corps Commander Bob Wisch, and I look forward to seeing many of you, and yours, at Downs Memorial Park, 19 August. Throw the "bull" and throw down some food and drink with your friends, and comrades!

**Our next regularly scheduled Limestone Post 1-72 meetings will take place in the Veteran Corps Headquarters room, at the 5th Regiment Armory, on 16 September, and 21 October 2019 beginning 1100 sharp.**

*Respectfully,*

*Lee Hofmann, Commander*

### **Florida West Post 2, Sarasota, FL**

*Commander & Finance Officer: Sean Malloy*

Please mail dues to: **Sean Malloy**

P.O. Box 511364, Punta Gorda, FL 33951-1364

July 4, 2019

*"When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another. . ."*

When a man or a woman decides to branch out on their own, away from the restrictions of corporate life, and start a business...they take a risk, sometimes a very huge risk to bet on the future of their "experiment". When the final days winnow down to the ribbon cutting ceremony and the bottles of champagne that have been popped...the real work then begins. The swell of a proud accomplishment begins to wane, now they must work hard to keep their dream alive and to always hold true to their found-



**Left to right: Eric Smith, Adriana Smith, Sean Malloy, Joseph Steimel, Judy Steimel, Dick Mosier and Chaplain Phil Bliss.**

ing principles; their mission statement, fostering strength and integrity toward a successful business for many years to come.

When our forefathers sat down collectively to pen the Declaration of Independence, the mission statement for a new nation, it was their dream to hold together a new United States that formed itself on the belief that we are all free to be not bound again by any tyrannical force at all, now and forever. We have become a Free and United Nation because throughout our history we have stood up to the bonds of tyranny, even before it had a chance to touch our shores. The country of France will always hold in high esteem the American soldier because of his dogged determination to fight for Freedom! ~ it was their mission statement.

On this July 4, 2019, I humbly salute our warriors of the 29th Infantry Division, United States Army, who kept a weather worn copy of their mission statement tucked safely in their army greens as they forged ahead onto Normandy Beach and beyond...to secure Life, Liberty & the Pursuit of Happiness for all! Happy Birthday America!

Florida West Post 2 welcomes new members: Mr. Paul Crouch, son of Mike Crouch, 121st Engineers, 29th Inf. Div., Hunter Steimel, Grandson of Joseph Steimel, K/175th, 29th Inf. Div., Mr. John Stepaniak, and Mrs. Carmella Scalesse, widow of Raymond Scalesse, 29th Inf. Div.

I salute those who have joined our ranks at Florida West Post 2! Welcome Aboard! "29 Let's Go!"

**Future Post Meetings are as follows: September 21st, October 19th, November 16th, at The Sarasota Red Lobster, 941-924-1297 for information and reservations.**

*Sean P. Malloy, Commander  
Eric G. Smith, Vice Commander*

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**Rudolph M. Price, Jr., Post 5, Norfolk, VA**

*Commander: John Lane*

Please mail dues to: **John Lane**  
340 Aragona Blvd., Virginia Beach, VA 23462-2702

**No Report.**

**Next Post 5 meeting: 9 November 2019.**

*Randy Hess, Adjutant*

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**HQs Post 29, Richmond, VA**

*Provisional Commander: Tim Williams*

Please mail dues to: **Todd Hubbard**  
12421 Liverpool Ln Apt 102, Chester, VA 23836-2773

Post 29 conducted a meeting at Legend's Brewery on July 17th to commemorate MAJ Howie, the Major of Saint Lo. On July 17th, 1944, MAJ Howie made the ultimate sacrifice while leading his men in the assault on Saint Lo, France. The next meeting of Post 29 will be on September 7th, location TBD.

*Todd Hubbard, Provisional Finance Officer*

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**Jerome L. Day Post 48, Westminster, MD**

*Commander: Frank Rauschenberg*

Please mail dues to: **Richard Stem**  
12 Westmoreland Ave., Westminster, MD 21157-4420

Greetings Comrades,

Many of our comrades are enjoying their summer leisure time. Therefore, Post 48 will not meet in July. Next meeting will be Thursday, August 29th at the American Legion, Westminster.

**AYCE Crab and Chicken Feed**

The Jerome L. Day Post 48, 29th Division Association have partnered with American Legion Post 31, Westminster in hosting an All You Can Eat (AYCE) Crab and Chicken feed as a fundraising event on Saturday, October 19, 2019, from 1pm to 5pm at the Legion Post, in Westminster.

There is a donation of \$40.00 a person to attend and enjoy plenty of delicious steamed crabs, fried chicken, side dishes and desserts. Please mark your calendar for this special event, supporting the American Legion and Post 48.

Contact Richard Stem, Post Finance Officer at 410-804-7699, Frank M. Rauschenberg at 240-367-6110 or the American Legion at 410-857-7953 for your tickets.

**Celebrating America**

Post 48 is currently participating in Celebrating America Summer Passport Event where children must visit at least 8 historical sites in Carroll County, including the Jerome L. Day Armory in Westminster. This is an opportunity for young people to see and learn about these historical sites in Carroll County. An independent panel of judges will award prizes to those children with the most site visited that can be authenticated. The Passport Event ends in September. An award ceremony will be held on October 20th at the Union Mills Homestead, Silver Run, MD.

I will keep you informed of upcoming events at the monthly meetings and by means of the *Chin Strap*.

**As a reminder, the next scheduled meeting will be August 29th at the American Legion, Westminster, MD.** Dinner at 6 pm, meeting at 7 pm and out by 8 pm. All comrades and their guests are invited to attend the meeting and enjoy some good veteran comradeship. There will be no meeting in July.

As always, I can be contacted by calling 240-367-6110 or E-mail, fm32@erols.com.

*Frank Rauschenberg, Commander*

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**Harry M. Richardson Post 64, Roanoke, VA**

*Commander: Morris Bennett*

Please mail dues to: **Jeff Banik**  
184 Tanglewood Drive, Blue Ridge, VA 24064-1417

Post 64 met on 3 July with 44 present; consisting of, 5 -WW-II Veterans, 2- Korean War Veterans, Several Vietnam Veterans, and of course, many Brave 29ers. Several guests were introduced. We received 10 new members: 2 from National, 2 from invite, 1 from the past meeting and 5 active 29ers.

After Prayer, pledge, and Preamble a roll call of all officers present and accounted for. The Adjutant's minutes were approved as corrected. The Financial Officers report was received. Col. Scott Smith presented a flag to Commander Bennett was for Post 64 that was flown at Task Force Headquarters in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom on the 66th Anniversary of D-Day, 6 June 2010.

Commander Bennett called on Vice Commander, SFC Richard Carr, and Comrade Richard Raymond (former Army, Navy, and Marine Vet.) to unfold the flag for all Post 64 to see that great symbol of freedom we all followed and served to protect. May it ever wave over the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave.

Post 64 will have its annual picnic at Lakeland Masonic Lodge on 13 July. National Commander, David Leighton shared information concerning our upcoming National Convention in Virginia Beach. Great speakers are expected at the convention. Juanita King shared things the Ladies will be involved with at the Convention.

Martin Leamy of D-Day Memorial announced an Honor Flight to Washington DC on 10-12 October (same dates as our Convention). The Red Sox field in Salem will host a "Honor Fest" softball game of Veterans vs. Celebrities on 17 August at 1600 hrs. Free for Veterans and \$5 for others. We will have a table with 29th Division folders and raffle tickets. The Post was able to acquire a M1 Garand. Tickets are 1 for \$5 or 3 for \$10. The raffle will be given away next July at the picnic. All Post members are asked to help sell tickets.

Mr. Ken Parker reported that a memorial service at Greene's Drug store in Bedford on 17 July at 1030 hrs. This is the exact date and time telegrams started coming concerning the fate of the Bedford Boys Soldiers who died on the beach in France 75 years ago, D-Day 6 June 1944.

PNC-Post 64 Commander Emeritus Bill King, with Post Commander's blessing, is setting up a way to contact Post members who do not have computers with information. King and two others have volunteered to handle that detail. Also, PNC King has been working months for a visit of Post members to Fort Pickett and observe our 29th perform. That will take place 23/24 July. Thanks PC King.

Commander Bennett asked for a report of sick & distressed. We have two sick members: Steve "Commando" Roragen, and Bernard Marie, who were lifted up in prayer. On a more somber note, Carlos Showalter passed away on 9 July. Chaplain Talmadge closed with prayer.

Great comradeship was enjoyed by all. **Our next three stated Post 64 meeting will be 1130 hrs. 7 August, 4 September, 2 October 2019.**

*Morris Bennett, Commander*

**Cresap's Rifles Post 78, Frederick, MD***Commander: James Hutts*Please mail dues to: **Cresap's Rifles, Post 78**

P.O. Box 1882, Frederick, MD 21703-0882

In 2002, retired Brigadier General (MD) Ernest M. Snyder, a former commander of Company A, and a charter member of Company "A" Association, along with James Alfred Cutsail and several others, initiated the idea and concept of building a memorial grove that would honor deceased members of Company A as well as other members of the community. The grove would be made as a small landscaped area that would be the backdrop for a small monument. The face of the monument would be a four-part cement replica of the Maryland State Shield.

To help fund this project and with the permission of the commanding officer of Company A, a corner of the hallway just inside the front door of the armory was set aside. A small raised platform provided an area for a table upon which a memorial book was placed, that contained the name and other information of individuals who had been chosen to be memorialized by their wives, families and/or friends.



In addition, two large plaques were hung on the wall behind this table that would contain small brass plates bearing these names. One would have the names of those who had served in Company A 115th Infantry and the second plaque would bear the names of anyone who had served honorably in any branch of the armed forces.

A short time later, it was decided that names of living individuals could be added if a donor chose to pay special honors to them. In consideration for this tribute, donors were requested to donate a sum of \$75.00 for each person whose name appeared in the book and on the plaque. This money was used to help maintain the grove outside the armory.

Over the years, while many names have been added to the Memorial Book, the grove outside showed signs of neglect and lack of maintenance. In 2006, the members of Cresap's Rifles Post 78, 29th Division Association decided to take steps to clean up and improve the grove. A decision was also made to rename the area as the MG Boyd M. Cook Memorial Grove in honor of MG Boyd M. Cook, a former commander of Company A, the 29th Infantry Division (Light) and the 29th Division Association.

Along with new landscaping, a new brick patio was built that now surrounds the monument, benches were added and the monument was cleaned and a new face was installed to replace the old state seal that had unfortunately cracked and crumbled due to the elements. The new face of polished black granite contains the military emblems signifying the parent units under which Company A has served. The symbols of the 29th Infantry Division, the 58th Infantry Brigade (Sep), the 115th and the

175th Infantry Regiments will serve as a future reminder to the soldiers of Company A and to the Frederick, Maryland community that has supported them for 100 years.

Recently, Staff Sergeant Daniel Holtz and First Sergeant James May of Company A, took it upon themselves to pressure wash the monument and all sidewalks. In addition, a new bed of fresh mulch was added and paid for with personal funds from 1SG May. Post 78 members are eternally grateful for this assistance.

**Post 78 meetings - August 14th, September 11th and October 9th at the Talley Recreation Center (old armory) in Frederick.**

*PNC John E. Wilcox, Adjutant*

**Eder-George Post 85, North East, MD***Commander: Howard Bond*Please mail dues to: **Valerie Simmers**

5 Shore Drive, North East, MD 21901-3327

**Next meeting dates are August 7, September 4, and October 2.**

*Respectfully,  
Valerie Simmers, Adjutant*

**Eastern Shore Post 88, Cambridge, MD***Commander: Jon Black*Please mail dues to: **Ken Wheatley**

102 Richardson Drive, Cambridge, MD 21613-1130

Greetings to all from the Members and Ladies of Post 88.

The focus for the near future will be preparing for the dedication and grand opening of the new Easton Readiness Center. D-175 will be returning very soon to Easton bringing the Infantry back to the town.

The history of the 29th Division that is so embedded in local history will soon be on display again at the Readiness Center.

The group is working very diligently to prepare and get the artifacts ready to be placed. The ceremony for the armory is scheduled for 10 August 2019.

The Annual Crab Feast is forthcoming in the Month October.

*Jon D. Black, Commander*

**New England Post 93, New England***Commander: Fran Sherr-Davino*Please mail dues to: **Neil Ungerleider**

34 Maple Avenue, Boxford, MA 01921-1424

We are excited to have added new members in the past month. We'd like to welcome **Barbara Cota Bartholin**, who is the granddaughter of MG Norman Cota and **Ron Jacobs** whose father served in the Air Force as Troop Carrier Command during WWII. I met both of these new members in Normandy France during the 75th Anniversary of D-Day remembrances. Having been on Omaha Beach for the 75th Anniversary of D-Day, **Kenneth DiBella** is moved to join our Post and Association.

We would like to also welcome **Barry Groton** who served in HHC and A Co of the 1-115th, 29th Infantry Division (L) and Robert Nathan, who is the son of 116th D-Day Veteran, Norvin Nathan.

From France, we have added members. **Vincent Mourgues** who places flowers on the grave in Colleville Cemetery of Clarence M Butcher, 175th Infantry Regiment, A Company, who died 26 June 1944. Vincent is looking for any information about Veteran Butcher. If you knew of him please let me know so I can get you in touch with Vincent. And new member **Anthony Mouser** of Brittany, France also places flowers on the grave of a member of the 29th ID each year to honor his memory.



From the UK, we have added members. **Charles Trumpess** has run a WWII military website for many years. And **Robert Furzeland** of Plymouth wrote he finds it a privilege to honor the brave men of the 29th Division.

I feel honored to have these people join our New England Post. They work at keeping the history and memories alive of our WWII veterans and we thank you for your dedication.

Our next luncheon meeting will be in September instead of August in hopes of getting more participation. See you then.

I am proud of our post as we have almost 100% renewal of members. If you are one of the 3 who have not renewed, please do so now or we will have to drop you from the roster.

If you have any questions for me or for our new members, please get in touch with me at: [fsd104@icloud.com](mailto:fsd104@icloud.com)

*Fran Sherr-Davino, Commander*

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### **Silver Spring Post 94, Silver Spring, MD**

*Commander: Jay Garrison*

Please mail dues to: **William Mund**

441 Chalfonte Drive, Baltimore, MD 21228-4017

Several Post 94 members were present at the 75th Anniversary of D-Day in France on 6 June 2019. They were: Leonard Jindra, Norman Duncan and Post 94 Commander, Jay Garrison.

We still have some members who have not submitted their dues for 2019. These members are requested to submit their dues at this time.

**No meetings scheduled.**

*Will Mund, Finance Officer*

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### **Larkspur Post 110, Pikesville, MD**

*Commander: PNC David Ginsburg*

Please mail dues to: **Ed Rodier**

13344 Cove Landing Rd., Bishopville, MD 21813-1102

The Larkspur Post 110 sends greetings to all our comrades. Although there was no Post 110 meeting in July, there is news to share from the Post.

As Post 110 reported in the last issue of *The Chin Strap* Governor Larry Hogan's Commission to determine the best future usage of the Pikesville Military Reservation completed its initial work and submitted the Final Report to the Governor. It unanimously recommended a multi-use venue for public benefits, including a compromise between all the major interest groups - a meeting area for the veterans, historical preservation, fields/courts for recreational use, public open space/trails, and arts spaces/studios.

This was a complex negotiation over the past 18 months, as there was pressure to turn the entire facility over to a private entity.

Post 110 Commander, PNC David Ginsburg, is representing the local veterans' groups on the Pikesville Armory Alliance that Baltimore County Councilman Izzy Potoka (a very strong ally) and Delegate Shelly Hettelman of the House of Delegates for Pikesville, as well as County Executive Johnny Olszewski Jr.'s office have recently joined.

The Alliance has also enlisted Isaac Hametz of Mahan Rykiel Associates to lead the development of a master plan and feasibility study for the Pikesville Armory together with a team that includes architects, economic development consultants, civil engineers, and cost estimators.

At the end of this study period, we will have a plan that captures the vision of the Alliance, as well as estimates the costs, revenue, community benefits, and ultimately the feasibility of the project. The anticipated completion date is mid-November.

All the Alliance members are supporters of the Veterans' having a continued presence at Pikesville, and know the political and sentimental pull we have far exceeds our monetary capability. The Alliance members are

open to reestablishing a museum on the site (they are up to date on why it is no longer there) that could start as a military museum and expand to a section on the history of Pikesville.

PNC Ginsburg's Key Goals Going Forward:

1. Have a voice on whatever goes forward - hence the Alliance and our seat on it
2. Maintain a relationship with both the Maryland Military Department Facilities and the State and County so we can stay in the facility during the initial transition period, and the several years it would take to put any plan into place.
3. Ensure that veterans have a meeting place for the foreseeable future, and that proper historical preservation is maintained at the Reservation (including signs, etc.)
4. Establish a 501c (3) for our Veterans of the Pikesville Armory Preservation Foundation so that we can raise funds for both the next steps, as well as rainy day funds for maintenance of the NCO Club as needed, utility payments if needed, etc.

We will continue to provide updates on this very important project in upcoming issues.

**Maryland Artillery Reunion – TBD in July or August  
Post Meetings – 11 September and 13 November 2019**

*Frank Armiger, Post 110 Executive Director*

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### **Stonewall Post 116, Staunton, VA**

*Commander: Barent Parslow*

Please mail dues to: **Jimmy Kilbourne**

116 Springhill Road, Staunton, VA 24401-9023

The July Post meeting was held on the 9th. Several new members were present. John Simar drove up from Lynchburg and guest Amanda Kutch came from Charlottesville. Amanda gave a presentation about locating, cleaning and preserving veteran gravestones, and genealogy research tips for finding military service ancestors. She and the Post Commander Barent Parslow are considering presenting similar workshops for the pub-



**National Senior Vice Commander Pete Hinz exploring a German bunker at WN60 overlooking Omaha Beach, 7 June 2019.**

lic at The Stonewall Brigade Museum this winter. The Post discussed ideas about preserving 116th Regiment gravestones in our region and ideas to increase meeting participation.

52nd Annual 116th Infantry Regiment Muster, Saturday, 9 November 2019, Staunton, VA. Online registration opens soon at <https://116thfoundation.org>. Rooms are blocked for the 116th at the Stonewall Jackson Hotel for \$129 a night. Call the hotel direct to reserve rooms now @ 540-885-4848.

# Post Reports, continued

The "C Company" 116th veterans meet for lunch in Harrisonburg, VA the third Thursday of EVEN numbered months at Golden Corral. Next meeting is **15 August 2019**.

The Winchester 116th veteran's group meets every month on the third Monday at the Golden Coral in Winchester. Be there by 0900 to get an all-you-can-eat breakfast. Next breakfast is **18 August 2019**.

ANY Post 116 Member, former Stonewaller or 29er is invited, welcome, and encouraged to attend!

Correspondence with the Post, dues, etc., should be addressed to:

Post 116, 29th Division Association  
566 Lee Highway  
Verona, VA 24482

The 116th Foundation reports its History Experience Tours for 2019 are FULL. Tour planning for next year include Normandy, World War One AEF, a Civil War Valley Campaign and Revolutionary War tours.

**\*\*NEXT POST MEETING\*\* Post 116 meeting** will be held **Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 10th 2019** at Mrs. Rowe's Family Restaurant, Exit #222 on I81, Staunton, VA starting at 1145 hrs. **The Post has changed its meeting schedule to every other month/bi-monthly** on ODD numbered months (July, September, November, etc.)

*Jimmy Kilbourne, Finance Officer*

## Lantern Post 729, Waynesboro, PA

*Commander: Randall Beamer*

Please mail dues to: **Lantern Post 729**

P.O. Box 831, Waynesboro, PA 17268-0831

Welcome and Congratulations to all of the following new members of Lantern Post 729, Shawn Sheppard, Harvey Sheets, and Gary Poole, for being a part of the 29th Division Association Family.

We appreciate your desire to be a part of our organization and trust you will benefit as well as take part in its growth and to promote the record of the 29th Division and its great history.

**Our next meeting dates are Aug 15, and Sep 19, 2019.**

*Randall Beamer, Commander*

## Maryland Region

The Maryland Region meeting held on 8 July was well attended. The MD Region voted to place an ad in the 2019 Souvenir Program Book for this year's convention. All posts are encouraged to place an ad in the book.

Region Commander Howard Bond suggested that a committee be established to conduct a raffle to raise funds. Richard Stem of Post 48 volunteered to discuss this initiative further with Commander Bond.

**Next Region meeting: 9 September 2019, 5th Regiment Armory.**

*Will Mund, Adjutant*

## Command post exercise prepares 29 ID staff for Warfighter

FORT INDIANTOWN GAP, PA – More than 600 National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 29th Infantry Division from Virginia, Maryland, Illinois, South Carolina and Tennessee came together to participate in a command post exercise June 18-30, 2019, at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania.

"A command post exercise is a training event designed to exercise the entire division staff and support team to establish a tactical command and control position in order to lead and direct subordinate units to execute a specific mission," said Col. Preston Scott, chief of staff, 29th Infantry Division.

The intent of a command post exercise is to validate and synchronize the decisive, shaping, and sustaining operations from division down through the brigades and across all warfighting functions.

The CPX focused on training the various division staff elements and warfighting functions on command and control in a simulated, forward-deployed, combat environment.

"The staff must bring all their respective communications and analysis systems on line and connect through various communi-

cations nodes to establish a common operating picture for the commander," Scott said. "This allows the commander to visualize and direct the actions necessary to accomplish the mission."

The CPX also afforded the division staff the opportunity to refine their proficiency in the Military Decision Making Process, staff battle drills, and tactical standard operating procedures while conducting command and control utilizing the Army's Command Post of the Future system throughout the exercise.

The CPOF is a fully integrated, networked system used to share, transmit, and analyze real-time mission data.

"This CPX has provided the division the opportunity to understand the current level of proficiency and evaluated how well it can maintain command and control during contested operations," added Scott. "The staff improved its digital system proficiency and gained greater understanding of how to weave all the disparate flows of information and through solid analysis provide the commander the ability to make decisions."

Soldiers from several of the division's

down-trace units and support sections served as "digital OPFOR," or opposing forces, during the exercise, controlling the actions and decisions of the simulated opposing force. This allowed the division staff to utilize their predetermined battle drills and tactical SOPs to react just as they would in a real-world combat operation.

"The training was diverse and interesting," said Spc. Sebastian Medina, a signal support systems specialist assigned to the Fredericksburg, Virginia-based 229th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 29th ID, who served as OPFOR for the exercise. "It was great to see the level of hard work committed to test our opponents during this exercise."

The overall purpose of this CPX was to prepare the 29th Infantry Division for an upcoming warfighter exercise later this year. That warfighter exercise will be used to validate the division's readiness to execute its wartime mission – to serve as a forward-deployed, combat-ready division headquarters.

*By SGT Marc Heaton*

## Respectful and kind words from a grave keeper in France

The following is the text of two emails that I received from Anthony Mouster of France. The first one is his response to me when I welcomed him as a new member of the 29th Division Association.

The second is his granting me permission to publish his first response to me. After reading what he wrote, I was struck by his genuine sincerity and the fact that he went to great lengths in contacting the family of Private Kelley and persuading them to come to France.

I feel that everyone in our association should read what he wrote.

Please remember that Mr. Mouster is a Frenchman and sometimes his English is not like ours. I did edit some words and phrases, however, Mr. Mouster's spelling seems to be rather good.

The Editor

I received your email and the 2 documents, thank you for your welcome. It is an honor for me to be part of this association, I am currently 30 years old and I have been interested in World War II for 15 years.

I discovered Normandy shortly after the 60th anniversary of the Normandy landings, and I was immediately touched by seeing the thousands of graves of American soldiers at the Colleville American Cemetery who died during the Second World War.

When I had my driving license in 2014 I sought an association that would allow me to honor the memory of his soldiers, so I discovered the association "The Flowers of Memory" that you surely know. I contacted this association and I told them that I would like to sponsor the grave of a soldier at the American cemetery of Brittany in St James because it is the one that was closest to my home (I live in a city called Plouénan in Brittany).

The grave that was assigned to me belongs to a soldier of the 29th Division, 116th Infantry Regiment, Private Edwin F. Kelley who died on August 27, 1944. I applied for his IDPF and I was there discovered that he had been killed in the vicinity of Brest and that he had a son born January 12, 1943.

When I learned this, I went looking for his son and thought he probably

was alive and I found it thanks to Facebook, but also his grandson and great-grandchildren. In 2017, I proposed to the Kelley family to come to my meeting in France and they accepted so they came in June 2018 for a short week. (The son of Private Kelley did not wish to come because the death of his father had difficult consequences on his life).

On the occasion of their arrival I organized the visit of a blockhouse located today under a college in Brest, the meeting with the mayor of the city of Guilers (near Brest town where private Kelley was killed) during which the mayor awarded the city's medal to the grandson of Private Kelley in thanks for the sacrifice of his grandfather for the liberation of the city. On the occasion of this visit I was joined by the president and a historian of an association called "Brest 44", the historian managed to discover the exact link where Private Kelley had been killed, so we all there with the Kelley family.

Of all the events of that week with the Kelley family, the greatest moment was when I accompanied them to the grave of Private Kelley. I currently bloom 30 graves of heroes buried in Normandy for eternity.

Respectfully,  
Anthony Mouster

Hello Mister Mund,

Yes, of course you can post my message because it would allow Americans to know what we are doing and maybe give them confidence because I know that many Americans are suspicious (what I totally understand).

The family of Private Edwin F. Kelley revealed to a reporter that when I contacted them to meet them they thought that my proposal was a scam before seeing that I was serious.

Our goal is to honor the memory of these men and women who died for our freedom by learning their stories, blooming their graves and developing links between the French and Americans.

Respectfully,  
Anthony Mouster, Post 93

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### Chin Strap Supporters

We have received financial support for the *Chin Strap* from the individuals listed below in the last month. Thanks to those of you who have helped by providing your monetary support as well as the kind words. Both are deeply appreciated. Please continue to contribute so we may continue to provide you a quality newsletter.

All donations are greatly appreciated. Checks for contributions to the *Chin Strap* should be made payable to the: Maryland Region—29th Division Association, Inc. and mailed to: **Edward Tolzman, 6A S Belle Grove Road, Baltimore, MD 21228-2204.**

Ed Koehler – Post 1-72

Ralph H. Scruton, Jr., In memory of 1SG Roland L. Berger, 729 Ord. Maint. Co.

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The *Chin Strap* is published by the Maryland Region for all members of the 29th Division Association, Inc. Comments may be forwarded to William S. Mund, Jr., 441 Chalfonte Drive, Baltimore, MD 21228-4017. Email: duster197329@gmail.com. Deadline for copy is the 17th of each month for the following month's issue.

|                                     |                     |                        |              |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Commander                           | Howard Bond         | bondhh@aol.com         | 410-790-0978 |
| Vice Commander                      | Bernie Liswell      | Liswell@live.com       | 410-253-4995 |
| Finance Officer                     | Edward F. Tolzman   | edtolzman@verizon.net  | 410-788-0135 |
| Adjutant & Editor <i>Chin Strap</i> | William S. Mund Jr. | duster197329@gmail.com | 443-529-4233 |

## New members

We welcome the following new members to the 29th Division Association, Inc.

Bartholin, Barbara Cota, Post 93, Mequon, WI  
 Brannan, Peter, Post 64, Dallas, TX  
 Carlson, Donald M., Post 64, Charlottesville, VA  
 Cole, Brandon, M., Post 64, Christiansburg, VA  
 Crouch, Paul, Post 2, Dunedin, FL  
 Delmenico, Melissa, Post 64, Salem, VA  
 Ermi, Renee, Post 94, Northville, MI  
 Gurtowski, Richard, Post 94, Vicksburg, MS  
 Hall, Roger, Post 64, Kingsport, TN  
 Harding, Philip, Post 94, Garden City, NY  
 Helms, David, Post 64, Bassett, VA  
 Jacobs, Ron, Post 93, Rexford, NY  
 Jones, Roger L., Post 64, Blue Ridge, VA  
 Kirtner, Bradley, Post 64, Salem, VA  
 Kmet, Jason, Post 5, Virginia Beach, VA  
 Mouster, Anthony, Post 93, France  
 Poole, Gary C., Post 729, Waynesboro, PA  
 Prazenica, Kathy, Post 94, Elizabethtown, PA  
 Quidas, Robert T., Post 88, Trappe, MD  
 Reynolds, John S., Post 64, Salem, VA  
 Scalesse, Carmela, Post 2, Somerville, MA  
 Seungsoo (RJ), Jun, Post 64, Roanoke, VA  
 Simmons, Mary Ellen, Post 88, Cambridge, MD  
 Steimel, Hunter, J., Post 2, Knightstown, IN  
 Stock, Christian, Post 29, Annapolis, MD

*To perpetuate the  
 friendships we cherish;  
 to keep alive the spirit  
 that never knew defeat;  
 to glorify our dead;  
 and to further keep  
 before our country  
 the record of the  
 29th Division  
 in all the wars;  
 we associate ourselves  
 in an organization  
 known as the  
 29th Division Association.*

### Posts in crisis:

## What can we do to rectify this situation?

*Published below is part of the column written by PNC John E. Wilcox, Jr., in the July edition of the Post 78 quarterly newsletter, "The Cresap's Rifle". It underscores the problems our association is facing today with the prevailing trend of non-participation by our members, both young and old, in organizations such as ours.*

*I have mentioned this concern previously in my Editor's message on page 2 of the Spring 2019 "Twenty-Niner." Note that PNC Wilcox indicates that the survival of Post 78, in Frederick, Maryland, is at stake here and that a solution must be found.*

*If a post with 200 members is going to fail, what will happen ultimately to the other posts in the association who all suffer from the same "non-participation" trend of our rank and file?*

*How long will the association survive? It basically will be decided by the younger current day 29th Soldiers and other interested individuals. They will determine the life or death of our association.*

*The Editor*

Things are not going well for Post 78 at this particular point in time.

As many of you are aware, my health has been declining for some time now and with age, continues to draw more and more of my time and efforts to maintain. Due to this and several other issues, I find that I am no longer able to continue in the position as Post Adjutant. I have served in this position since 1994 and feel the time has come to step aside and allow someone else to fill my shoes. I hope to remain available as a consultant and to assist in any way possible. But I can no longer provide the effort needed to do a good job. I would hope that someone else will step up to the plate to fill this important position. I would like to see another individual show the interest required so that I might be available to provide some guidance if needed. While I am sharply curtaining my duties at this time, I plan to fully retire effective October 30, 2019. This time it will be for real.

As the largest post in the 29th Division Association with 203 members, I find it really sad that we have not been able to draw more people into one of the positions as a post officer. Bear in mind that any good organization requires people in leadership positions to make sound decisions upon which the rank and file will operate. Most of our officers have been in their same positions for many years, and in many cases have held additional positions also. That should never be allowed to happen with a post as large as ours. Please search your soul and consider volunteering for a position to help keep our post afloat.

I am told that several other officers are suffering continual health problems and will be looking to retire very soon also. We need some new leadership if we hope to maintain an active post. A meeting of several Post officers and members of the Executive Committee was recently conducted to discuss the future of Post 78. While we will continue to work on this problem in the next couple months, it should be known that if this situation is not rectified very soon, we will begin preparations toward closing the Post. If this were to happen, all members whose dues are current, would be offered the opportunity to transfer to another Post within the Association. If it comes to this, a document will be made available to all members describing their available options. Those who have paid for a Life Membership in Post 78 will be offered a separate choice.

If we get no response to our request for new officers within the next few months, preparations will begin to dissolve the Post. Anyone interested in discussing this situation, may send your name, phone number, and email address if available to me at email wilcoxj154@gmail.com

If email is not available, please mail to: Commander, Post 78 - P. O. Box 1882 - Frederick, MD 21702-0882.

REMEMBER.....TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE !!!

*PNC John E. Wilcox  
 Adjutant, Post 78*

